

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020063
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-----290458Z 097497 /13
R 282050Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMCONSUL GENOA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, BBAK, IT

SUBJECT: TORRINGTON COMPANY PROBLEM

REF: ROME 1167

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES INFORMATIVE REPORT OF EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH GEPI AND CAMILLI.
2. TORRINGTON LOCAL REP (TUCKER) APPROACHED DEPT JANUARY 21 AND SAID THAT COMPANY MANAGEMENT BELIEVES LITTLE FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE EXPECTED FROM MININD (SUBSTANTIALLY AGREEING WITH VIEW EXPRESSED IN PARA 5, REFTEL). TORRINGTON THEREFORE REQUESTED USG MAKE APPROACH TO MFA, REGISTERING CONCERN OVER LACK OF PROGRESS AND NOTING TORRINGTON'S LEGAL RIGHT TO DEPART ITALY WITH ITS SPECIALIZED MACHINERY.
3. DEPT BELIEVES THAT USG SHOULD STAND BY THE US FIRM, WHICH HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT AND WHICH IS ASKING FOR NO MORE

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THAN LEGAL CONTROL OF ITS PROPERTY. IN LIGHT OF APPARENT RIGIDITY OR INDIFFERENCE WITHIN MININD, DEPT AGREES THAT MFA IS THE PROPER PLACE WITHIN GOI TO MAKE POSITION KNOWN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH MFA AT

APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND POINT OUT OFFICIAL USG DISMAY AT LACK OF SOLUTION TO LONGSTANDING TORRINGTON PROBLEM. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THE FIRM HAS COMPLIED WITH ALL APPLICABLE ITALIAN LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND IS THEREBY FULLY ENTITLED TO REMOVE ITS EQUIPMENT FROM ITALY. WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND ITALIAN AUTHORITIES' RELUCTANCE TO ENFORCE TORRINGTON'S RIGHTS BY FORCIBLY REMOVING OCCUPANTS OF ITS GENOA PROPERTY, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, NOT TORRINGTON, TO FIND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. WE WERE DISCOURAGED TO LEARN THAT GEPI'S OFFER TO BUY TORRINGTON PLANT WAS CONDITIONED ON OBTAINING ITS MACHINERY TO SET UP NEW NEEDLE-MAKING PLANT AND HOPE GOI CAN FIND SOLUTION WHICH WOULD ALLOW CONVERSION OF PLANT TO A NON-NEEDLE-MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. WE ARE CERTAIN TORRINGTON WOULD BE OPEN TO SUCH A PROPOSAL.

5. FOR GENOA: TORRINGTON INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT ROBERT B. WASSUNG WILL VISIT GENOA IN EARLY FEBRUARY. DEPT SUGGESTED HE CONTACT CONGEN DI SCIULLO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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